

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING  
INVENTORY CONTROL OF MEDICAL OBJECTS

Abstract of the Disclosure

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A method and apparatus for providing inventory management and control of sutures, needles, lap pads, sponges and other medical objects within a sterile operating room environment eliminates the tedious and error-prone manual counting methods, while reducing the handling of sharp objects, such as needles and scalpel blades, by a factor of four or more. In the method and apparatus, one or more types of scanning and counting devices are used to determine the quantity and/or identity of each object that will be taken into the sterile operating room environment. The scanning and counting devices are connected to a computer system which includes inventory control and networking programs to determine if the number and identity of each object initially provided for use in surgery is recovered or accounted for after surgery.

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